

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 STATE 245027

50

ORIGIN IO-03

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /004 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: IO/SCT:LNCAVANAUGH

APPROVED BY: IO/SCT - MR. TREVITHICK

IO - STAFF ASSISTANT

----- 118751

R 152003Z OCT 75

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

INFO USMISSION IAEA VIENNA 5332

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE STATE 245027

FOLLOWING REPEAT BANGKOK 21388 SENT SECSTATE INFO VIENTIANE  
DATED OCT 9.

QUOTE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BANGKOK 21388

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IAEA, TECH, ENRG, TH, LA

SUBJECT: DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANT  
PROJECT; ELECTRICITY FROM LAOS

REF: BANGKOK 20574 (NOTAL)

1. IN SPEECH MADE BEFORE BANGKOK LIONS CLUB OCTOBER 3,  
EGAT GENERAL MANAGER KASEM CHATIKAVANIT MADE FIRST RECENT  
PUBLIC STATEMENT ADVOCATING ESTABLISHMENT OF NUCLEAR  
POWER PLANT IN THAILAND. SPEECH HAS RECEIVED FAIRLY  
SUBSTANTIAL PUBLICITY, WITH SUBSEQUENT ARTICLES APPEARING  
TWICE IN BANGKOK POST AND ONCE IN NATION NEWSPAPERS, SO  
FAR WITHOUT EDITORIAL COMMENT. RTG'S PUBLIC RELATIONS DEPT.  
ALSO RELEASED SUMMARY OF KASEM'S STATEMENTS.

2. IN SPEECH, KASEM SAID NUCLEAR POWER IS A MUST FOR  
LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 STATE 245027

THAILAND IF THE COUNTRY IS NOT TO BE HAMPERED BY POWER

SHORTAGES AND OIL PRICE INCREASES, POINTING OUT THAT WITH WORLD OIL DEMAND INCREASING BY SIX PER CENT PER YEAR, WORLD OIL RESERVES WILL BE EXHAUSTED IN 30 YEARS, AND THAT THAILAND'S CONSUMPTION OF ELECTRICITY HAS INCREASED BY NEARLY 1,000 PER CENT IN LAST DECADE.

3. KASEM POOH-POOHED "CHILDISH FEARS" ABOUT NUCLEAR POWER, STATING THAT IT IS SAFE AND HARARD-FREE AS CAN BE SEEN BY FACT THAT THERE HAS NOT BEEN ONE ACCIDENT IN THE ONE HUNDRED ODD NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IN OPERATING IN THE WORLD. MORE IMPORTANTLY, HE SAID, DESPITE HIGH INITIAL INVESTMENT COSTS, NUCLEAR POWER WOULD MEAN CHEAPER ELECTRICITY WITHOUT WHICH ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT WOULD BE RETARDED. HE SAID NUCLEAR POWER PLANT IS ONE OF SEVERAL PROJECTED SCHEMES TO COPE WITH POSSIBLE POWER SHORTAGES, OTHERS INCLUDING PROJECTED BAN CHAO NEN DAM, ELECTRICITY FROM LIGNITE, AND PURCHASE OF ADDITIONAL ELECTRICITY FROM NAN NGUM DAM IN LAOS. (IN SEPARATE STATEMENT, KASEM NOTED THAT AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED OCTOBER 6 WITH ELECTRICITY DE LAOS (EDL) TO PURCHASE NAN NGUM-GENERATED ELECTRICITY AT NEW RATE OF 10.5 U.S. MILS PER K/H, REPRESENTING INCREASE OF OVER 100 PER CENT OVER PREVIOUS RATE OF 4.5 MILS.)

4. EMBASSY OFFICER SPOKE SUBSEQUENTLY WITH PREECHA CHUNGWATANA, CHIEF OF EGAT'S ATOMIC ENERGY DIVISION, WHO AGREED THAT KASEM'S SPEECH MIGHT BE CONSIDERED PART OF AN EFFORT TO GAIN PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE AND GOVERNMENTAL APPROVAL OF NUCLEAR POWER PROJECT, WHICH EGAT HOPES TO OBTAIN PRIOR TO JANUARY WHEN TENDERS ARE SCHEDULED TO BE ISSUED (REFTEL). HE SAID HE WAS GLAD TO STATE THAT SO FAR THERE HAD BEEN REMARKABLY LITTLE ADVERSE CRITICISM OF THE SPEECH. HE SAID ONE UNNAMED MP HAD SPOKEN OUT AGAINST THE NUCLEAR PROJECT IN PARLIAMENT, BUT THAT WAS IN THE CONTEXT OF CRITICISING A NUMBER OF GOVERNMENTAL PROPOSALS SO HE DIDN'T TAKE IT TOO SERIOUSLY. (NOTE: THE OCTOBER 9 BANGKOK POST CARRIED A LETTER TO THE EDITOR FROM A WESTERN READER, PRESUMABLY BRITISH, CHALLENGING KASEM'S STATEMENT THAT NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS ARE SAFE.)

5. PREECHA ALSO CONFIRMED THE NEW RATES FOR PURCHASES LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 STATE 245027

OF ELECTRICITY FROM EDL, AND THAT EGAT HAD AGREED TO BUY ANY SURPLUS GENERATED BY EDL'S NAM NGUM DAM. HE SAID NEW RATES WERE NOT EXORBITANT, BECAUSE OF HIGHER COSTS OF ENERGY, AND THAT OLD RATES HAD BEEN EXTREMELY LOW. IN ANY EVENT, TOTAL CAPACITY OF NAM NGUM IS INSIGNIFICANT (30,000 KW NOW, 80,000 AFTER EXPANSION), ESPECIALLY SINCE EDL IS CONCURRENTLY PURCHASING OIL-GENERATED ELECTRICITY FROM EGAT FOR SOUTHERN LAOS AT EVEN HIGHER RATE OF 15 US

MILS PER K/H.  
MASTERS UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** SPEECHES, NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, ELECTRIC POWER PLANTS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 15 OCT 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** greeneet  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1975STATE245027  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** IO/SCT:LNCAVANAUGH  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D750359-0088  
**From:** STATE  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1975/newtext/t19751054/aaaabwgi.tel  
**Line Count:** 117  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ORIGIN IO  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 75 BANGKOK 20574  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** greeneet  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 10 APR 2003  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <10 APR 2003 by SmithRJ>; APPROVED <16 SEP 2003 by greeneet>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
06 JUL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** DEVELOPMENTS IN THAILAND'S NUCLEAR POWER PLANT PROJECT; ELECTRICITY FROM LAOS  
**TAGS:** TECH, ENRG, TH, LA, IAEA, (CHATIKAVANIT, ASEM)  
**To:** IAEA VIENNA  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006